

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 to 12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A sensor element for detecting a physical property of one of a gas and a liquid, comprising:

a first layer;

a second layer; and

at least one contact face disposed in a layer plane between the first and second layers, the first layer including a recess in a region of the at least one contact face,

wherein the recess has a slotlike-shaped recess that widens toward an outer face of the sensor element.

14. (Currently Amended) The sensor element of claim 13, wherein the sensor element is configured to detect one of a concentration of a gas component and a temperature of an exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine.

15. (Currently Amended) The sensor element of claim 13, wherein the first and second layers are ceramic substrate layers having a thickness in a range from 0.05 to 1 mm.

16. (Currently Amended) The sensor element of claim 13, wherein the recess extends in the region of the at least one contact face over an entire width of the sensor element.

Claims 17 to 18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) The sensor element of claim 13, further comprising:

an electric element and a conductor track arranged inside the sensor element, wherein the at least one contact face is electrically connected to the electrical element via the conductor track.

20. (Previously Presented) The sensor element of claim 19, wherein the at least one contact face is electrically connected to one of an electrode and a heating element.

21. (Previously Presented) The sensor element of claim 19, further comprising:

a first electrical insulation layer arranged between the conductor track and the first layer, and including a recess in the region of the at least one contact face; and

a second electrical insulation layer arranged between the conductor track and the second layer, and between the at least one contact face and the second layer.

22. (Previously Presented) The sensor element of claim 19, further comprising:

a contact part electrically connected to the at least one contact face so that the electrical element, via the conductor track, the at least one contact face, and a contact part, is connected to electrical wiring located outside the sensor element.

23. (Currently Amended) The sensor element of claim 13, further comprising:  
a third layer, wherein there is a further contact face arranged in a layer plane between the second and third layers, and the third layer includes a recess in a region of the further contact face.

24. (Currently Amended) The sensor element of claim 13, wherein the first layer forms an outer layer of the sensor element.

25. (Currently Amended) The sensor element of claim 13, further comprising:  
at least one further layer which is arranged on a side of the first layer that is remote from the at least one contact face, and which includes an additional recess.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a sensor element constructed in layers for detecting a physical property of one of a gas and a liquid, the method comprising:

forming a first layer of the sensor element;

forming a second layer of the sensor element, so that at least one contact face is disposed in a layer plane between the first and second layers; and

forming, in the first layer, a recess in a region of the contact face by one of stamping, drilling, and milling the recess in a green body of a ceramic sheet,

wherein the recess is formed as a slotlike-shaped recess that widens toward an outer face of the sensor element.